A celebration of ecology's variety—as both subject and research endeavor—and a call for intradisciplinary understanding.

Ecology contains multitudes, and that is its power. In an essential book for all ecologists, Fox builds on insights developed in his popular blog, *Dynamic Ecology*, to argue that it is better for a scientific discipline to be messy than monolithic. Analyzing and accessibly explaining a broad range of scientific literature, Fox shows that ecology grew from disparate sources with profoundly different motivations, methods, and goals. We see the differences in those origins reflected in today's research, in the pull between those who want to establish ecological laws akin to physical ones and those who see ecology's value as inherent in its species- or system-specific case studies. Neither group, Fox argues, is doing ecology wrong. Instead, he says, the strength of this science—as of most ecological systems—is diversity. We now need the community to know enough about those different approaches to improve how they work together. This book is a start.

"In this deeply researched, clearly written, and fascinating book, Fox has a lot to say about what makes ecology a vital field, and about how we could make it even better."
Stephen B. Heard, author of *The Scientist's Guide to Writing* and coauthor of *Teaching and Mentoring Writers in the Sciences*

"Any ecologist would do well to read this book—it's an honest yet hopeful reckoning with the field as a whole, and it would behoove practitioners to engage with it."
Ambika Kamath, coauthor of *Feminism in the Wild*

"Packed with thought-provoking insights into the diversity of ways ecologists go about their work, and how those have changed over time, Fox's book provides a guide to how we can reap strength from that diversity."
Mark Vellend, author of *Everything Evolves*

"An evidence-based, deeply thoughtful dissection of how ecologists really do ecology versus the stories we tell ourselves about how we do it."
Brian J. McGill, coauthor of *Community Ecology*, second edition, and coeditor of *Biological Diversity*

Jeremy Fox is professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Calgary. He studies population and community ecology and writes the *Dynamic Ecology* blog, https://dynamicecology.wordpress.com/.

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